

St Quintin and Woodlands Neighbourhood Forum

Newsletter September 2017

Proposals for an Old Oak neighbourhood forum and plan

As forecast in our last newsletter, the OPDC and Hammersmith and Fulham Council have (for the time being) blocked proposals for a large neighbourhood area covering the eastern part of the OPDC area.

The OPDC Board has designated within its boundary only a 22 hectare area on the Ealing side of Wormwood Scrubs. This includes the residential areas off Old Oak Common Lane and Old Oak Lane, a short stretch of canal, and the Wesley Estate in Park Royal. (see the green boundary on the map below).

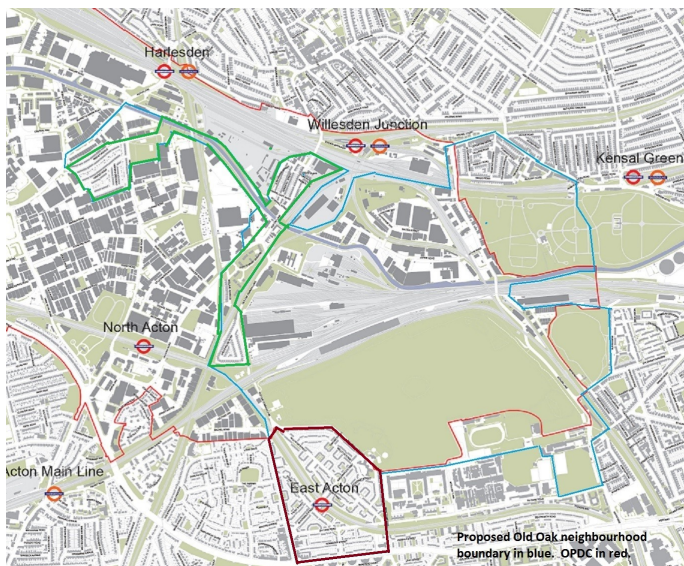
Hammersmith and Fulham's Cabinet has designated the Old Oak Estate, as a separate neighbourhood area for which no one applied. This leaves the estate as an 'orphan' area without a forum, at least for now.

As a result of these decisions, the opportunity for local people to influence through a neighbourhood plan the future of Wormwood Scrubs and the Linford Christie stadium been taken away.

These decisions have been made despite 198 responses to the consultation of which 162 (82%) supported the original proposals from the Old Oak Interim Neighbourhood Forum. 35 of these came from our StQW/SHRA neighbourhood.

The reasons given by OPDC and LBHF for their decisions range from the fairly weak to the very weak, in terms of Government guidance. These issues will be pursued as they have implications across London.

College Park, Scrubs Lane, and Little Scrubs also disappear from the proposed neighbourhood area boundary, as shown below. Not a good outcome.



Police station closures – debate continues

The current consultation is part of a wider Met Police review of its Public Access and Engagement Strategy. Closures could include the Safer Neighbourhood offices in this area, as well as Notting Hill police station on Ladbrooke Grove. A second consultation meeting at St John's Church saw mixed views being aired. The Council is now supporting the Kensington Society petition on 38 Degrees at this [link](#).

There is case that shrinking Police funds have to be re-allocated and that the number of crimes reported in person at Notting Hill police station is low. Others argue that the presence of a police station in an area filled with tourists is something that most world class cities manage to provide – so how come we cannot?

The Kensington Society position is that the building that houses Notting Hill police station should at least be retained for 'social and community use' under RBKC planning policies. Chelsea police station was sold off for luxury housing.

More news from the Town Hall

In the aftermath of Grenfell, the Council has reconsidered a number of its earlier decisions. While there may not have been official announcements on all of these issues, it seems that

- plans for a new North Kensington Library in Lancaster Road have been dropped and the existing library building will remain open
- Notting Hill Prep has withdrawn from plans to lease the existing library
- estate renewal plans for Silchester East and West, and Barlby/Treverton are on hold
- relevant sections of the Council's Draft Local Plan are withdrawn, and the Examination in Public of the plan deferred (probably until the New Year).
- the Council is looking to end its relationship with KCTMO (its arms length housing management body)

Barry Quirk (chief executive at Lewisham Council) has agreed to stay on for the time being as interim chief executive at RBKC. Some other director level posts are filled by interims from the 'task force' brought in by Government.

The work on finding permanent housing solutions for survivors of the Grenfell fire is taking time (but no doubt should if good solutions are to be found). Temporary classrooms for the Kensington Academy have been built on Wormwood Scrubs, next to the Linford Christie stadium. It will take a long time for the Council to get back to anything like normality. And even longer for those most affected by the fire.